

**St. Sylvester, Woodsfield**  
founded 1866

**St. John The Baptist, Miltonsburg**  
founded 1841

*Parishes of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Steubenville*

# **The Monroe County Catholic Churches**

[www.monroecountycatholic.org](http://www.monroecountycatholic.org)

334 South Main Street  
Woodsfield, Ohio 43793-1027

**NOVEMBER 30, 2025**

**FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

**IS 2:1-5 ROM 13:11-14 MT 24:37-44**

*Word of the Lord - Page 65*

**Fr. Nicholas Ward**  
**Administrator**



## **Parish Contacts**

New Parishioners are always welcome! Please contact the office.

**Fr. Nicholas Ward** (740) 457-7098

[nward@diosteub.org](mailto:nward@diosteub.org)

Jennifer Winkler (740) 472-0187

Office Hours Mon-Thurs. 9-2

## **Holy Matrimony, Baptism & Funeral**

Contact the parish office (740) 472-0187

## **Confessions**

St. Sylvester: Saturday 4:00pm to 4:45pm.

Sunday 7:45am to 8:15am.

St. John The Baptist: Sunday 9:45am to 10:15am

## **Pastoral Care of the Sick and Infirm**

Call Fr. Ward 1(740) 457-7098 Hospitals and Care facilities  
**regularly do not notify** the parish unless specific request is made.

## **Catholic Woman's Club**

**St. Sylvester:** Diane Burkhart (740) 391-0391

**St. John the Baptist:** Eileen Ackerman (740) 757-2481 or  
Eileen Miller (740) 472-0279

## **Knights of Columbus** *St. Joseph of Monroe County Council 5009*

Meet on First Wednesday of each month at St. Sylvester Church,  
following the 6:30 p.m. Mass

Grand Knight: Anthony Schumacher (740) 827-3626

## **Purgatorial Society & Prayer Chain**

To join & information contact: Jackie Kirkland at (740) 472-0338.

## **Catholic Youth Group**

Leader: Regina Knox

## **Diocesan Vocation Director**

Fr. Nicholas Ginnetti  
740-432-7609

## **Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA):**

RCIA is an adult preparation for Baptism, Confirmation & Eucharist.

Contact Church Office 740-472-0187

## **Parish School of Religion** (PSR aka. CCD)

The Parish Religion Classes children 1st—8th grade

St. Sylvester School & Public Schools

**St. Sylvester:** Jill Schumacher (740) 213-4665

**St. John the Baptist:** Eileen Ackerman (740) 757-2481 **Call to Register**

## **St. John The Baptist Hall**

Schedule to Rent Hall for Any Occasion

Contact Jennifer Winkler 740-472-0187 or 740-213-2430

## **St. Sylvester Central Elementary**

(PreK-8) 119 Wayne Street, Woodsfield, Ohio.

Mrs. Robyn Guiler: Principal (740) 472-0321 ~ Preschool (740) 472-0420

## **Catholic Cemeteries**

**St. Sylvester** Woodsfield: Tony Schumacher (740) 827-3626

**St. John the Baptist, & Immaculate Conception Ozark:**

Tony Schumacher (740) 827-3626

**St. Joseph & Chapel Hill,** Burkhart Station: Russell Betts (740) 567-3286

**St. Patrick's,** New Matamoras: Parish office: (740) 472-0187

## **DOS Office of Family & Social Concerns & Referral**

(i.e. Catholic Charities), 1-800-339-7890.

## **Diocesan Child Protection and Reporting of Abuse**

Victim Assistance Team: email: [victimassistance43952@gmail.com](mailto:victimassistance43952@gmail.com)

Phone: 740-278-3455

## **Emergency Contact** "When Fr. Ward is out of town"

Assumption Church, Barnesville, Ohio, Fr. David Cornett

Rectory Office: (740) 425-2181 Cell: (740) 381-4415 or St. Stephen Church,

Caldwell, Ohio, Fr. Tom Nelson ~ Rectory Office: (740) 732-4129

## FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Word of the Lord—Page 65

### SUNDAY

NOV 30<sup>TH</sup>

St. Sylvester, Woodsfield 8:30 a.m.  
+Carol Schumacher *by Terry Elliott*

St. John The Baptist, Miltonsburg 10:30 a.m.  
Living & Deceased of our Parishes

### MONDAY

DEC 1<sup>ST</sup>

St. Sylvester, Woodsfield 12:00 Noon  
+Donald Biedenbach *by Dennis & Cheryl Nau*

### TUESDAY

DEC 2<sup>ND</sup>

St. John The Baptist, Miltonsburg  
+Bob & Barbera Hartwell 12:00 Noon  
*by Stephanie Hartwell*

### WEDNESDAY

DEC 3<sup>RD</sup>

St. Sylvester, Woodsfield 6:30 p.m.  
Sick & Distressed *by Knights of Columbus*

### THURSDAY

DEC 4<sup>TH</sup>

St. John The Baptist, Miltonsburg  
+Stella Crum *by Ginny Hutler* 12:00 Noon

### FRIDAY

(School Mass)

DEC 5<sup>TH</sup>

St. Sylvester, Woodsfield 12:35 p.m.  
+Clara Schumacher  
*by Mike & Missy Knowlton*

### SATURDAY

DEC 6<sup>TH</sup>

St. Sylvester, Woodsfield 12:00 Noon  
Ruth Dunfee

St. Sylvester, Woodsfield 5:00 p.m.  
+Dar Zwick *by Donnie & Janet Zwick*

### SUNDAY

DEC 7<sup>TH</sup>

St. Sylvester, Woodsfield 8:30 a.m.  
Living & Deceased of our Parishes

St. John The Baptist, Miltonsburg 10:30 a.m.  
+Ruthann & Kenneth Knox *by Regina Knox*

## OCIA

Every Thursday at 7:00p.m.

**Adult Catechesis Class,  
Documents of Vatican II**  
Every Tuesday at 7:00 p.m.

### **BOTH CANCELED THIS WEEK**

Both locations at  
St. Sylvester Church Basement

## ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST CHRISTMAS DINNER

Sunday, December 7th  
following the 10:30 Mass at the Hall

Meat & Table services provided, Bring your favorite  
covered dish and a Bingo prize.  
Everyone Welcome!

## **CWC CHRISTMAS PARTY**

Wednesday, December 10th

St. Sylvester & St. John The Baptist  
Catholic Women Club Parishioners

\$25 Gift Exchange - Generations Building  
Appetizers at 5:30 p.m.—Dinner to follow

RSVP before November 30th Contact  
Diane Burkhart 740-391-0391 or  
Louise Kress 757-474-5922

## St. Sylvester CWC

### PURSE RAFFLE

Michael Kors Purse-Ruthie Large Satchel-  
Smokey Rose

**Drawing December 16th**  
\$1.00 per ticket or 6 for \$5.00

Contact any CWC Member to purchase  
your ticket today!

### Our Sunday Offering

November 22 - November 23

### **St. John The Baptist**

Adult Collection	\$ 830.00
Loose Collection	\$ 90.00
Candle Fund	\$ 157.00
Education Fund	\$ 65.00
Thanksgiving	\$ 34.00
Christmas Flowers	\$ 3.00
Christmas Offer	\$ 5.00
Priest Retire	\$ 100.00
In Memory 2026	\$ 10.00
Starter Set	\$ 60.00
Building Fund	\$ 5.00
Hall Fund	\$ 500.00

### **St. Sylvester**

Adult Collection	\$ 3,191.00
Loose Collection	\$ 41.00
Candle Fund	\$ 99.00
Education Fund	\$ 185.00
Thanksgiving	\$ 100.00
Human Develop	\$ 10.00
In Memory 2026	\$ 100.00
Mass Request	\$ 22.00
Cemetery Fund	\$ 50.00
Building Fund	\$ 65.00

*Thank You for your  
continued support of  
our Parishes &  
School*

### **This Week**

### **Wednesday**

St. Sylvester Church  
**Adoration**  
8:00 a.m.– 6:00 p.m.  
Rosary 6:00 p.m.  
Mass 6:30 p.m.

**School Cancellation or  
Delayed for Snow Days  
Morning Mass  
to be rescheduled  
12 noon @ St. Sylvester Church**



## 2025 DPSC Share Campaign

Your sacrificial gifts enable the dioceses to educate our seminarians, future priests, care for retired priests, oversee education of our youth through Catholic Schools, religious programs and youth ministry, assist poor and other local efforts, Please keep this in mind as you graciously consider your contribution. You can also donate online @ Give.DioSteub.Org

**St. Sylvester Goal: \$29,390**  
**St. John The Baptist Goal: \$17,806**

**Goal Received \$20,649**  
**Goal Received \$9,253**

***In Loving Memory Of:***

Emma Schumacher  
Paul Ditto  
Deb Schumacher  
Francis (Fritz) Schumacher  
Katy Madison  
Paul Madison  
Paul Madison Jr.  
Charles & Mary Hunkler  
Donald & Lois Stephen  
Michael E. Koval  
Norma H. Koval  
Herman Burkhart  
Hilda Burkhart  
Madeline Mellinger  
Billie Jean Elliott  
Harry & Lucille Elliott  
David Baker  
Lowell Baker  
William Bolon  
Meri C Welsh  
Raymond Baldwin  
Alice & Ralph Buckalew  
Grace Ann Joyce  
Joe Fillippi  
Ty A. Burkhart  
Darrell & Charlotte Cline  
Clara Rush  
Virgil Rush  
Francis & Edith Block  
Virgil Block  
Joe & Debbie Block  
Gladys (babe) Burkhart  
Jimmy Norris  
Mary Ellen Barber Norris  
Quinn Kahrig  
Danny Betts  
Edward Rensi  
Vernon Butler  
Cinderella Butler  
Francis Stephen  
Carol Moore  
Imelda D. Scott  
Francis Paulus  
Freeda Paulus  
Mary Paulus  
Hilda Paulus  
Michael Burkhart  
Bertha Burkhart  
Rebeca Burkhart  
Robert Miller Sr.  
Walter Knox  
Josephina Jack  
Lawrence Crock  
Helen Burkhart  
Francis Burkhart  
Wes & Clare Hossman  
Donald Miller  
Larry Krone  
Joy Taylor  
Cindy Miller Stevens  
Norbert Burkhart  
Agnes Burkhart  
Tina Burkhart Muffett  
Francis Reischman  
Hazel Reischman  
Harold Robinson  
Ellen Robinson  
Cyril Burkhart  
Eunice Gallagher  
Joe Gallagher  
Thelma Scott  
Harmon Scott  
Jimmy Scott  
Richard Scott  
Delores Quarles  
Carol Lumbatis  
Richard J. Sobocinski  
Fr. Samuel Saprano

***Eternal rest grant unto  
them, O Lord.***

Dear Parishioners,

I hope you all had a blessed Thanksgiving with family and friends.

Saint Paul says to us in our second reading today something that is of perennial importance, not just for Advent-time: "Brothers and sisters: you know the time; it is the hour now for you to awake from sleep. For our salvation is nearer now than when we first believed; the night is advanced, the day is at hand. Let us then throw off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; let us conduct ourselves properly as in the day, not in orgies and drunkenness, not in promiscuity and lust, not in rivalry and jealousy. But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the desires of the flesh (Romans 13:11-14)."

Jesus first coming in history was foretold by prophets long beforehand, and heralded by the appearance of a bright star. His second coming will be more sudden, as He Himself testifies to us today: "So too, you also must be prepared, for at an hour you do not expect, the Son of Man will come (Matt 24:44)."

Jesus calls for us to be alert, awake, and conscious. He wants disciples who are like watchmen, who not only wait faithfully and patiently for His coming, but are also able to rouse their friends and neighbors to watch for Christ's coming too.

The image of the watchman, the sentinel is one that appears in many places throughout scripture, especially the Old Testament. The Prophets warn us that we must be on the lookout: "Son of man, I have made you a watchman for the house of Israel (Ezekiel 3:17)." "On your walls, O Jerusalem, I have set watchmen; all the day and all the night they shall never be silent. You who put the Lord in remembrance, take no rest (Isaiah 62:6)." "For there shall be a day when watchmen will call in the hill country of Ephraim: 'Arise, and let us go up to Zion, to the Lord our God (Jeremiah 36:1)'"

Are we awake enough to be able to receive Christ when he comes? Will he find us drowsy, still stuck in the same old sins? Will he find us asleep, dead and numb to the grace He has offered to us, unable to respond the promptings of His Spirit? Will he find us inattentive to the needs of our neighbor? Will he find us ignorant of the things that should not have escaped our attention?

We can curse the darkness of the world all we want. But Christ has made us His watchman in the world. He has entrusted us with the important task of keeping vigil, warding off evil, not succumbing to the forces of the night ourselves. How will we conduct our night shift? Will we find ourselves worthy to enjoy the rest which comes with the dawn of eternal life? Will God find us worthy?

I hope this Advent will allow us the chance to increase our awareness of things spiritual, so that neither Christ nor the Adversary will catch us unawares.

God bless you all,

In Christ, Fr. Nick

**TUESDAY BINGO****December 2nd**

Missy Knowlton  
Randall Sefert  
Eric/Kendra Billiter

**December 9th**

Missy Knowlton  
Mary Atkinson  
Mike Russell  
Beth Black

**SUNDAY BINGO****December 7th**

Robyn Guiler  
Daniel/Carrie Dick

**December 14th**

Missy Knowlton  
Terry Schumacher  
Marissa Cole  
Nathan/Rachel Arden

**TUESDAY KITCHEN****December 2nd**

Julie Selmon  
Angie LaFollette

**December 9th**

St. John CWC

**SUNDAY KITCHEN****December 7th**

Louise Kress  
Helen Strahl

**December 14th**

Louise Kress

November 29....Steve Burkhart  
November 30....Tom Dick  
December 6.....Tammy Jones  
December 7.....Becky Baldwin

## Scripture Reading of the Week

**Sunday**
**NOVEMBER 30<sup>TH</sup>  
FIRST SUNDAY  
OF ADVENT**

IS 2:1-5  
ROM 13:11-14  
MT 24:37-44

**Monday****DECEMBER 1<sup>ST</sup>**

IS 4:2-6  
MT 8:5-11

**Tuesday****DECEMBER 2<sup>ND</sup>**

IS 11:1-10  
LK 10:21-24

**Wednesday****DECEMBER 3<sup>RD</sup>**

IS 25:6-10a  
MT 15:29-37

**Thursday****DECEMBER 4<sup>TH</sup>**

IS 26:1-6  
MT 7:21, 24-27

**Friday****DECEMBER 5<sup>TH</sup>**

IS 29:17-24  
MT 9:27-31

**Saturday****DECEMBER 6<sup>TH</sup>**

IS 30:19-21, 23-26  
MT 9:35-10:1, 5A, 6-8

**Sunday**
**DECEMBER 7<sup>TH</sup>  
SECOND SUNDAY  
OF ADVENT**

IS 11:1-10  
ROM 15:4-9  
MT 3:1-12



## CHRISTMAS FLOWERS IN MEMORY

Arthur Miller  
Ruth Miller  
David Miller

## CHRISTMAS FLOWERS IN HONOR

**St. Joseph of Monroe County,  
Council 5009 of the Knights of Columbus  
Anthony Schumacher, Grand Knight**

**Leading by Example**—Our council seeks to develop a culture of charity, unity, and fraternity in faithful service to the Church and community.  
New members are welcome to join us!

**Next Meetings**- \*Knight's of Columbus Meeting will be on Wednesday, December 3rd. Adoration at 6:00 p.m. Rosary at 6:15 p.m.  
Mass at 6:30 p.m. Meeting to follow in the Church Basement.

\*Catholic Women's Club Meeting is Wednesday, December 10th - 5:30p.m. @ Generations

